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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL
FM Gul: Turkey will not pull troops out of Cyprus - Milliyet
US troops torture Iraqi captives - Milliyet
Fukuyama: I don't see Turkey in the EU - Hurriyet
BP to leave Iraq, cites lack of security - Sabah
EU Turkey Rep: Situation deteriorating in Iraq - Turkiye
Chirac: Turkey may join EU by 2015 - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS
US signals de facto recognition of 'TRNC' - Zaman
FM Gul aims at removal of political sanctions on 'TRNC' -
Radikal
No new UN plan for Cyprus - Yeni Safak
Bush, Cheney testify at 9/11 commission - Zaman
US mistreats Iraqi prisoners - Radikal
US cannot break Fallujah resistance - Yeni Safak
US leaves Fallujah command to former general of Saddam -
Radikal
US warns nationals against travel to Israel - Cumhuriyet
Sharon insists on 'nuclear ambiguity' - Zaman
Lieberman, Hagel propose development bank for Middle East -
Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Cyprus: A Cyprus regulation in favor of the Turkish Cypriots was approved at the EU Council ministerial meeting in Luxembourg on Thursday. Turkish papers regard the decision as an initial step toward ending the isolation of northern Cypriots. The Greek Cypriots and Greece have not raised objections to EU plans to ease the economic isolation of their Turkish Cypriot neighbors. In an effort to ease the isolation of the Turkish north and to force the Greek south to hold a second referendum, the US will establish an economic relationship with the Turks without officially recognizing the 'TRNC,' dailies speculate. The US is also working to open Ercan Airport in the north to international flights. Washington is also planning to open a non-official presence post on the Turkish side of the island. While bidding farewell to Turkish leaders in Ankara on Thursday, UN Cyprus envoy De Soto said that a second referendum for reunification could only be held in south Cyprus. Kofi Annan is not planning to launch a new initiative on Cyprus, De Soto said, and he urged the Greek Cypriots to make a better assessment of the UN plan. 'TRNC PM' Mehmet Ali Talat has agreed with Turkey's PM Erdogan not to allow the Greek Cypriot administration to interfere in contacts between the 'TRNC' and the EU. Turkey will support the export of Turkish Cypriot goods to EU countries.

PM Erdogan to Greece: Prime Minister Erdogan will visit Western Thrace in northern Greece next week. The region has a large ethnic Turkish minority, and Erdogan's visit is a sign of warming ties between Ankara and Athens. As the first Turkish government leader to visit Western Thrace since 1952, Erdogan will discuss with Greek officials the political, economic and educational problems of the Turkish minority.

US annual report on Global Terrorism: The US State Department's 2003 report on global terrorism notes that the PKK has thousands of members in northern Iraq, and that the terror organization has been receiving support from Syria, Iraq and Iran. The PKK's successor organization, Kongra-Gel, is using Europe as a source of fundraising and political propaganda. The report adds that Turkish Hizbulah, which has several hundred members, is going through a period of reorganization. DHKP-C and IBDA-C are among the other terror groups cited in the report, which praises Turkey as a strong and enduring partner in the struggle against terrorism.

AKP vetoes provision favoring women: The ruling AK Party removed from a draft constitutional amendment a provision that would have allowed 'affirmative action' for women, "Radikal" reports. The provision would have introduced special quotas for women in politics. A package of constitutional amendments that envisages significant changes to smooth Turkey's path to the EU will be voted on by the parliament next month.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Iraq
- c) EU expansion

"Duty Call for Turkey!"
Haluk Ulman commented in the economic-political Dunya (4/30): "The US effort to stabilize Afghanistan has ended in failure, just like the deteriorating situation in Iraq. The Karzai administration does not have control over Afghanistan. The fact that Karzai survives in Kabul is due to the support he receives from NATO forces. Outside of Kabul is another story. Security in the outlying regions is zero. Al-Qaeda is still operating in the mountains of Afghanistan, and apparently Usama Bin Ladin is free enough to shuttle between Afghanistan and Pakistan. In this very chaotic situation, the Bush administration is making an incredible proposition to NATO, and particularly to Turkey, by asking for more troops to serve in Afghanistan. Sending Turkish troops to Afghanistan, even if their mission is designed as operational, is totally unacceptable. Under current circumstances, there is no way to justify such a mission."

"Getting out of Iraq will be Harder than Going in"
Mustafa Balbay argued in the social democrat-opinion maker Cumhuriyet (4/30): "One year has been since President Bush's announcement that the Iraq war had ended, yet the situation is only worsening day by day. It is interesting that even staunch US supporters like the UK and Poland are now calling on the Bush administration for either a complete reversal of its current Iraq policy or at least for the formulation of more realistic policies. . The Prime Minister of Poland was forced to resign amid heavy criticism of his policy in Iraq. Poland stands as the primary US ally in Central Europe, but only 29 percent of the Polish people support the country's military presence in Iraq. Iraq, on the other hand, has been divided into three regions. The north has become strongly pro-American, and the center and south strongly anti-American. . Things in Iraq are going in a very problematic direction for the US. It looks leaving Iraq will not be as easy as it was to go in. The US made a very detailed plan for toppling Saddam and occupying the country, but it seems to have overlooked one fine detail -- the people of Iraq."

"The Union Expands, But How Far"
Sami Kohen opined in the mass appeal 'Milliyet' (4/30): "One of the reasons that EU administrators have accepted the EU's 'expansion policy' has been to increase the union's political power through the inclusion of countries that will support democracy, peace, and prosperity in the European geography. Such an entity might one day emerge as a kind of superpower. One other reason for the expansion policy is to include the Eastern and Northern European countries that were run by communist regimes for decades. A final reason is connected with the economic benefits reaped by the rich and powerful European countries. After all, there is a new internal market of 75 million people about to be added to the union. . The economic factor is paramount for the 10 new member states. Since most of these are developing countries, they are hoping to reach higher European standards through their membership. On top of this, the ex-communist countries will become members of a powerful union that will provide them political support and security

guarantees. Will Europe continue to expand beyond these 10 new members? There are many countries still on the waiting list. Bulgaria and Romania are at the front of the line. Then comes Turkey, which is waiting for a negotiation date. Other willing nominees include Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and Croatia. At the moment, the debate is continuing in the EU -- some say `let us stop here,' while others say the expansion should continue.

"EDELMAN